The REPORTER
For Conscience' Sake

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Seedtime and Harvest in Greece

(Since 1951 the Mennonite Central Committee has carried on a program of assistance to several villages of Greek refugee farmers in northern Greece. Most of the personnel have been Pax men doing alternative service. Last spring the decision was made to relocate the project. At this time MCC Area Director Peter Dyck analyzed the work which had been done. His article and the photos of current I-W's come through MCC Information Service.

Undoubtedly, natives in many countries would have equally appreciative words for the American youth who come to work with them while on I-W assignment. We offer this article as representing international cooperation which contributes to the "national health, safety and interest," showing too that the influence of such Christian CO's is not limited to technical assistance, though this is their main task. -Ed.)

Leaving the villages of Panayitsa and Tsakones in Macedonia, Northern Greece, after eight years of MCC Pax work and witness is in some respects like harvest time. Not only does the corn actually grow taller now because hybrid seed has been introduced and better methods of agriculture demonstrated, not only are there bigger chickens and pigs and better cows in the villages, but something else has happened that makes us thankful, as at harvest time.

We were sitting in the street in front of the coffee shop, visiting with some villagers when one of them, with great earnestness, began a little speech thanking MCC Pax for all they had done in his village but pleading that we do not desert them now. "Please stay with us," he said. "We know you want to go and start work in other villages. That is good, but could you not leave us two boys. Just leave us two Pax boys." Those around

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Kenneth King, Parnell, Ia., (right) works with an area agriculturalist in Greece to improve primitive farming practices.

New Rule Aids CO Army Reservists

Just before going to press the REPORTER was informed of a new regulation issued by the Department of the Army which authorizes the discharge of any enlisted reservist who has been "found to be a bona fide conscientious objector."

Former regulations provided authority for shifting recognized CO's from combatant to noncombatant duties, whether on active duty or in the reserves. Also, under the general authority given to the Secretary of the Army, discharges could be granted in individual cases for any reason which the Secretary would consider proper, and some CO's have obtained discharge under this general authority.

However, in the absence of any specific authorization applying to CO's, many applicants have found it extremely difficult to obtain any consideration for their claims. Some reservists have received partial recognition by being moved into standby status.

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This, however, has still left them vulnerable to a possible recall.

The new regulation, AR 140-178, delegates to army commanders authority to discharge enlisted men for a number of reasons, including the following:

> "When it is reported by Selective Service authorities that the reservist is found to be a bona fide conscientious objector and if not classified I-D (as a member of a Reserve component), would be classified I-O (Conscientious Objector Available for Civilian Work Contributing to the Maintenance of the National Health, Safety, or Interest)."

While procedures for such cases have not yet been fully worked out, one reservist who had previously requested discharge and had been moved into the Standby Reserve has received an honorable discharge under the new authority. Other such requests should receive early attention.

For more information and for counsel on procedures, reservists who are covered by this authority should write to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, 401 Third St., N. W., Washington 1, D. C.

Robert B. Myers: NSBRO Attorney-Advisor Recent Court Cases Involving CO's

GONZALES v. U. S., USSCt, No. 416, October Term 1959. Hayden C. Covington, Esq., attorney for Gonzales. On June 27, a sharply divided Supreme Court (5-4) upheld the "Guilty" verdict against Raymond Gonzales, Jr., a Jehovah's Witness who had sought both the I-O and 4-D classifications. (See THE REPORTER, November 1959.) The majority took a legalistic view of the proceedings and held that the final I-A classification was based solely upon the Appeal Board's finding "that his claim as to ministerial activity [in 1956] was exaggerated and cast doubt on his sincerity."

This apparent exaggeration was picked up by the Justice Department in Washington and served as the sole basis of its adverse recommendation, although the point was never discovered or discussed in five years of classifications and reclassifications. Gonzales, in a written rebuttal to this observation by the Justice Department, flatly denied the exaggeration, but the Court majority held that the Appeal Board, in its final I-A classification, on the written record had a right to decide adversely to Gonzales this question of his credibility, although everything else in his file was favorable.

The Court majority felt that Gonzales had missed his opportunities to refute the adverse recommendation -- he could have submitted additional data to the Appeal Board and he could have summoned witnesses at the trial.

The Supreme Court again refused to rule directly on the question of subpoena of the FBI report and the Hearing Officer report to the Justice Department. It said:

> "The recommendation of the Department -- as well as the decision of the appeal board -- was based entirely on the local board file, not on an FBI report.... This is not to say that there might not be circumstances in a particular case where fairness in the proceeding would require production."

How the fairness of an FBI Resume can be determined without seeing the FBI report still is, as the Minority said, "a guessing contest."

Teacher Deferment Bulletin Revoked

The Selective Service System on June 8, 1960, rescinded Operations Bulletin No. 126 which had been issued in 1955. The rescinding bulletin pointed out that the action had been taken "because of the overall shortage of teachers in many fields of education and the need for giving consideration to their occupational deferment."

It was noted by the Selective Service newsletter that this rescission leaves in effect the policy of considering teachers for deferment in the light of the general shortage of teachers in all fields. What the change does, in effect, is to remove any implication that teachers in certain fields should receive special consideration. Thus, all teachers can receive equal attention for their deferment requests.

Included in the former listing of critical categories were college teachers in critical occupational fields and high school teachers

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of mathematics and the physical and biological sciences. Local boards were notified of these shortages and further instructed to carefully consider the deferment of such persons. Former policy, however, did not attempt to bar the consideration of other teachers from possible deferment.

In practice, local boards have quite consistently granted the II-A, occupational deferment, to bona fide teachers who have requested it. The Director of Selective Service has advocated this policy of teacher deferment on the basis that Selective Service can thus, in keeping with the national interest, relieve the teacher shortage by keeping young men liable for the draft in the teaching jobs for which they have been trained.

Paul Comly French Dies

Paul Comly French, Executive Secretary of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors from its formation in October 1940 until September 1, 1946, died on June 2nd at the age of 57 in his home at Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Mr. French devoted much of his life to humanitarian projects. From 1946, when he left the NSBRO, until 1955, he was the Executive Director of CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances Everywhere). A native of Philadelphia, reared in a Quaker family and in the faith of the Society of Friends, Mr. French began his career as a reporter for the United Press and later worked on the Philadelphia Record. In 1937 he became Pennsylvania director of the Federal Writers Project.

He edited the book, "Common Sense Neutrality," published in 1939. The next year his book, "We Won't Murder," was published - a story of men who followed conscientious scruples "and helped give life to democracy." The book gave a historical account of the treatment of conscientious objectors and dealt with the motivation of men who take the CO position.

As Executive Secretary of the NSBRO, Paul Comly French gave his executive leadership in the years when the NSBRO had very broad responsibilities for the organization and administration of the extensive conscientious objector work program. By the time he left the NSBRO, close to 7,000 men had been demobilized and only 1,385 remained in CPS. At that time, in summary of his six years of work he wrote, "I think that CPS represents an advance over the treatment of conscientious objectors in the First World War, and should be used as a stepping stone to a better alternate service system in the event that we are again engaged in another conflict, or in the event that the Congress adopts peace time military training." He made this statement with the acknowledgment that "we failed in securing provision for dependency, compensation-insurance coverage for injuries sustained, pay for assignees, and the full freedom of administration that we wanted."

In his capacity as executive director of CARE, Mr. French traveled to more than 50 countries. He received many foreign decorations in addition to many domestic awards.

Surviving him are his wife, Dorothy Felton French, and their children Bruce Comly and Susan Lynn, Paul Comly, Jr., and Peter K., children of a previous marriage, also survive. A brother, Dr. C. Clement French, is president of Washington State College.

Voting and Conscientious Objection

By coincidence, two questions on the voting rights of persons holding the CO position have come to our attention recently. One relates to a Prince George's County, Maryland man, convicted of violation of the Selective Service law, who sought written confirmation of his eligibility for voting at the advice of his counsel. Maryland law seems to raise no particular difficulties, and the Board of Supervisors of Election, with full knowledge of the prior conviction, determined him eligible to register and vote. The written confirmation was a caution in case questions later should arise.

Another person with doubts about the propriety of voting, and thus possibly endangering his CO position, wrote to Vice-President Richard Nixon and received the answer that "Congress has never made the obligation to serve in the national defense depend upon the right to vote." Nixon also felt that the question of whether one has voted or not should not affect one's status as a conscientious objector.

Constitutional amendments provide that the right to vote shall not be denied because of race, color, or sex. Beyond this, states are free to set qualifications for the right to vote. Some states disqualify from voting persons convicted of crime, even after the sentence has been served. It is in such states that conscientious objectors who were convicted of draft law violation may have their right to vote challenged or denied. In general, however, such violations by CO's have not been viewed to be sufficient basis for the denial of voting privilege, since they are not regarded as heinous or extremely criminal by the appropriate authorities.

Thus, the question of criminality connected with draft law violation may jeopardize voting rights in some states. Otherwise, in the United States, one's stand as a conscientious objector is not regarded by authorities as being compromised in any way if one votes, nor is the voting right jeopardized by taking the CO stand. During the two World Wars in Canada, in the duration of conscription measures, recognized conscientious objectors were not permitted to vote. This, however, was not the case in the United States. Though some officials have regarded the recognition of CO's as a concession by government, no such renunciation of rights has been demanded in return.

Amish Youths Face Trial

Three Ohio Amish youth late in June were scheduled for trial sometime in July for their refusal to do civilian work in lieu of military duty. The men, Daniel N. Swartzentruber, 23, of Beach City, and David W. Miller, 24, and Benjamin C. Yoder, 25, both of Apple Creek, all entered pleas of innocent to charges of draft law violation on June 28, in U. S. District Court.

According to news reports, they were ordered to report for work at the Columbus State Hospital, Ohio, but refused because they believed work in the hospital was essentially the same as military service and a violation of their peace principle.

The men have shunned the services of a lawyer to protect them in court, saying, "God is our attorney." Judge Mell C. Underwood stated that the trial date would be set for sometime in July.

Army Regulation Change Affects I-O Processing

According to an account in the Selective Service newsletter, Army regulations on the preinduction processing of registrants are being changed to clarify the procedures applicable to physician and dentist registrants classified in Class I-O. The amended regulations will specify that such registrants shall not be required to accomplish DD Form 98 (Armed Forces Security Questionnaire) when forwarded for preinduction processing.

Regulations governing the processing of medical and dental registrants did not specifically provide that such registrants in Class I-O would not accomplish the security form, although the regulations did specifically exclude this step in preinduction processing of other registrants in Class I-O. Induction station personnel had on occasions viewed the preinduction processing of medical and dental registrants to require the accomplishment of DD Form 98, whether being processed for entry into the Armed Forces or for civilian work in lieu of military service, probably as a result of the absence of a specific provision to the contrary.

The move to amend the regulations was instituted after recent discussions between the National Headquarters of Selective Service and the Office of the Adjutant General, U. S. Army.

News Briefs

Fellowship Peace Information carries a report that a West European international conference of 45 student pastors from eight countries, meeting in June in Geneva, Switzerland, appealed to the World Council of Churches to "bring about the right to conscientious objection in all countries of Europe."

* * *

The same source reports that ROTC will be put on a voluntary basis next September at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. The ruling was made by the school's board of trustees in a June meeting.

It is also reported by the FOR that Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N. J., in May announced it had just discontinued compulsory ROTC.

The regents of the University of Wisconsin have recently approved a two-year trial program of voluntary ROTC, according to the CCCO. Within the last year there has been a marked trend toward voluntary ROTC in larger universities.

* * *

"Redbook Magazine" in its August issue reports favorably on Marjorie Swann's participation in "Omaha Action" last summer and of her subsequent imprisonment for demonstrating and trespassing at the missile base.

* * *

Also noted by Fellowship Peace Information is the resignation of commissions by two naval officers who turned pacifist. Joseph Glynn, Jr., resigned his commission in the U. S. Naval Air Service last month in a strongly worded letter to his commanding officer. "To refuse to obey the trigger for massive retaliation," he wrote, "is to be a person of moral dignity and worth, instead of a machine."

Another officer, Ensign Richard G. Otto of Newtown, Pa., resigned a U. S. Navy

commission on May 26 because of "conscientious objection to all military duty." Although raised as a Quaker, Otto joined the Navy out of respect for an uncle who had graduated from West Point. "I entered upon a way of life," he wrote recently, "which I should have realized was entirely wrong, not only for myself, but also incompatible with my Christian heritage."

* * *

The State Government of Maharashtra, India, had decided to introduce compulsory training in the National Cadet Corps for boys in four Government colleges in the state from the academic year beginning in June, according to a report in "India News." The scheme for compulsory NCC training is expected to be extended to other colleges in the state as soon as possible.

Seedtime and Harvest, Cont'd.

us, including local policemen, endorsed this sentiment and the man went on to say, "Since you left us, people in the village ask each other every day when they meet in the street, 'Have you seen an American boy today?' We need your presence."

That afternoon the local priest told me privately, and a little later made the same statement at a public meeting, that in the last year there had been a "revival" in the village. People come to church more, there are more confessions, there is a better life in the community. "I am sure that your gift of Bibles to all the families has something to do with this," he concluded.

Again we felt thankful, as at harvest time, when professors of the Seminary at Saloniki (Thessalonica) approached us, asking whether it would be possible to have a few seminary students join our Pax team for several months during vacation time to work alongside our fellows and to learn from them at the personal level.

One afternoon, quite unexpectedly, 10 teachers of neighboring villages knocked at the door of the MCC Pax house, explaining that they had come to Tsakones on an excursion with their classes and wanted to take this opportunity to find out who these Americans were and what they were doing in Greece. It was a wonderful opportunity for sharing, and our guests were most attentive and appreciative. When they rose to leave, one of them commented that this had been an unforgettable hour and another said that she felt she had listened to first-generation Christians and had seen a portion of the early Church in action. These are compliments we like to hear, but there is, as always, another side and this is perhaps not so encouraging.

At harvest time the thin spots in the fields also show up and the mistakes of the past are revealed more clearly. One of these is in connection with our dairy project. Discussing this with our unit leader, Larry Eisenbeis, and the other fellows there, one of them candidly remarked, "We talk a lot about the educational value of the dairy project; the time has come when we ask ourselves the question, What have we learned through this experience?"

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MY CONTRIBUTION TO HELP COs

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is my gift of $_____ toward your work in behalf of conscientious objectors.

Name _____

Street or RFD _____

City _____ State _____

(Clip and mail to NSBRO, 401 Third Street, N. W., Room 403, Washington 1, D. C.)

Spring is seedtime in Greece. Leaving former villages, our team is now in the process of relocating in a new territory but still in Macedonia. There will be, and are now, many new beginnings, new contacts with people and new projects. An experimentation and demonstration station is being set up on the edge of Aridea, the largest of the villages and marketing center for the valley, which has some 40 villages. Members of our team will live at this center but work out into the various villages, going out by land-rover, bicycle and on horseback. Fellows will have their special assignments and projects, some carrying responsibility for the poultry program, others for pigs, fruit canning, and others again will be in charge of crop improvement. "If you could only send us a cheesemaker," said an official of the Greek Agriculture Department, "we would provide the equipment and everything else needed to make it."

Dan Bert, Newburg, Pa., checks the comfort of eggs in the Pax poultry project incubators. About 2000 eggs are hatched every 22 days.

These are the new beginnings, this is the seedtime of our program in Greece. We are confident that if we are faithful now, the Lord will give the increase and one day there will be another harvest.

NSBRO APPEAL FOR FUNDS

As one of our subscribers and as a person interested in the problems of CO's, you may have received earlier this year the annual appeal for funds. Youth facing the draft or already in uniform are alike confronted by the issue of conscientious objection to military duty and need counsel; the need for the NSBRO's services continues. For the current fiscal year ending September 30th, our budget is $29,500. If you have not yet made a contribution to this work, or if you wish to made an additional gift, clip the blank on page 5 and mail it with your gift. Make checks payable to the National Service Board.

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